

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 HEW-04

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02

COME-00 /062 W

-----062223Z 032539 /62

R 050950Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8121

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0809

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP APUB LA SREF

SUBJECT: LPDR POPULATION DATA

REF: A VIENTIANE 0450, B 76 VIENTIANE 1194

1. UNDP STATISTICIAN BERNARD ROSTAING, WHO IS DIRECTOR OF A COUNTRY WIDE CENSUS PROJECT SCHEDULED TO BE TAKEN IN 1981, BELIEVED LPDR HAD A NEGATIVE POPULATION GROWTH IN 1975 AND 1976 BECAUSE THE FLIGHT OF REFUGEES NEGATED AN ESTIMATED POPULATION INCREASE OF 4.8 PERCENT. ROSTAING ESTIMATES THAT SINCE THE 1975 COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF LAOS 30,000 VIETNAMESE, 900 INDIAN, 170,000 CHINESE, AND OVER 100,000 THAI CITIZENS LIVING IN LAOS AS PERMANENT RESIDENTS HAVE LEFT, FURTHER REDUCING THE POPULATION.

2. ROSTAING TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE OFFICIAL POPULATION  
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STATISTICS RELEASED JANUARY 7, 1976 BY THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE ARE GREATLY INFLATED. HE SAID THE FIGURES, CALCULATED BY MULTIPLYING THE LAST NATIONAL CENSUS STATISTICS BY AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE OF 2.4 PERCENT, DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WAR DEAD AND MAJOR POPULATION SHIFTS CAUSED BY THE WAR. FAULTY CALCULATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPOUNDED

OVER THE LAST DECADE. ACCORDING TO ROSTAING, LAO OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO IGNORED REFUGEE FLIGHT IN CALCULATIONS OF 1975 AND 1976 POPULATION FIGURES FURTHER INFLATING THE TOTALS. FOR EXAMPLE, ROSTAING'S PRELIMINARY RESEARCH INDICATED THE POPULATION OF VIENTIANE PROVINCE IS ABOUT 400,000 RATHER THAN THE OFFICIAL 625,800 1976 STATISTIC; SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE IS 364,000 NOT 464,000; AND SAYABOURY PROVINCE IS ABOUT 250,000 AND NOT 301,600. ROSTAING ESTIMATED THE TOTAL LPDR POPULATION IN 1977 AT 2.9 MILLION RATHER THAN THE OFFICIAL 1976 FIGURE OF 3.4 MILLION, AS REPORTED REFTEL.

3. WE NOTE THAT IPAC DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 123-77 LOCATES PAKSANE CITY IN BORIKHANE PROVINCE. AS WE REPORTED IN 76 VIENTIANE 1194 (190530Z MAY 76) "THE STATE STRUCTURE OF THE LPDR" AND AS WE HAVE RECONFIRMED FROM ROSTAING, WHOSE SOURCE IS THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE CITED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, BORIKHANE PROVINCE NO LONGER EXISTS.

4. THIRTEEN PROVINCES LISTED IN NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT WITH POPULATION FIGURES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PHONGSALY	120,300
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LUANG NAMTHA	143,900
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OUDOMSAY	231,600
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LUANG PRABANG	231,700
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SAYABOURY	301,600
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HOUA PHANH	203,500
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XIENG KHOUANG	152,900
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VIENTIANE	625,800
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KHAMMOUANE	284,500
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SAVANNAKHET	464,600
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SARAVANE	229,300
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CHAMPASSAK	379,000
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ATTOPEU 69,200

TOTAL 3,498,500  
CORCORAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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